

U.S. Application No. 10/786,072

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claim 17 remains pending, and stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho, et al., US 2004/0254934 (Ho) in view of Kavalam, et al., US 2005/0091658 (Kavalam), Wiik, et al., US 5,260,551 (Wiik), and newly-applied Wang, et al., US 2004/0203589 (Wang). The Applicants traverse as follows.

The Applicants have previously argued that Kavalam and Ho disclose different types of access control list (ACL) such that their combination would simply be redundant and thus not motivational to the person of ordinary skill in the art. The Applicants additionally submitted that Wiik, like Kavalam, provides a "black list" (BL) including prohibited access entries, and thus is redundant to Kavalam. In sum, the Applicants argued that the person of ordinary skill would not find motivation or advantage in combining Kavalam and Ho or in combining Wiik with Kavalam, and that no one of these references suggests to look at the BL first, and then to the ACL, as required by the present claim. In other words, while the invention provides the advantage of faster and shorten security clearance (or prohibition), none of the applied references provides the advantage, and in fact, any combination of the references would simply provide redundancies in access restriction and/or prohibition.

In addition, claim 17 requires that the distribution module of each access controller send out the user information or the updated prohibition list to a predetermined other one of the access controllers, thereby transmitting the user information or the updated prohibition list from one access controller to another. This chaining of transmitting user information or an updated prohibition list from one

access controller to another is not taught by Wilk, which at most suggests a broadcast update of a BL.

Newly-cited Wang is applied as teaching to restrict access by first referencing a prohibited list prior to the ACL. However, even if such were to be acknowledged, the many other differences noted above are not suggested by Wang. Further, the motivation to combine the references does not seem to flow from the prior art, but from the present inventors. Therefore, the rejection seems not to raise a prima facie case of unpatentability.

Nevertheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution and allowance of the claims, the Applicants have amended claim 17 to add subject matter previously canceled from claims 5 and 6 as originally filed. Now, claim 17 requires an access control list update module configured to update the access control list according to the access prohibition list. Further, claim 17 requires the list update module (as distinguished from the access control list update module) to delete the user information on the access prohibition list at a predetermined timing. This configuration allows the information recorded on the access prohibition list to be reflected in the ACL and, once reflected, to delete the entries from the access prohibition list so as to keep the number of entries to a minimum, thereby increasing speed and efficiency of the access control by, for example, reducing the time necessary for searching the access prohibition list for an access interception task, reducing the load imposed by the access interception with the aid of the access prohibition list, preventing the transmission performance from deteriorating when the access prohibition information is transmitted between access controllers, and reducing the memory capacity required for managing the information recorded on the access prohibition list.

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By way of specific (non-limiting) example, emergency access interception is intended to allow each access controller to forcibly block access to information by prohibited users and groups by referring to the access prohibited users and groups previously recorded on the access prohibition list (including when an access by a user is blocked after interception to see if the user is entitled to access). To immediately carry out this forcible blocking, it is desirable to keep the number of entries on the access prohibition list to a minimum, to reduce the search time, etc. as noted above.

This is because the present invention covers processes such as allowing entries recorded on the access prohibition list to be reflected in the ACL and deleting the subject entries from the access prohibition list for each of the access controllers once the entries are reflected in the ACL, as well as intercepting access by a prohibited user immediately after the user is registered on the access prohibition list. The invention timely reflects the entries recorded on the access prohibition list in the ACL rather than treating the entries recorded on the access prohibition list as permanent information. This reduces the number of entries to be recorded on the access prohibition list, thereby reducing the load imposed for the access prohibition list, as well as the other advantages noted above. The present specification advances the inventors' consideration and invention in this regard in paragraphs [0016] to [0022] and [0065] to [0068], for example, with reference also to Fig. 7. The asserted combination does not provide this claimed structure or the advantages flowing therefrom.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

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To the extent necessary, the Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. MEI-101).

Respectfully submitted,

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